

156 ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

if a fish came to *me*, and told me he was going a journey, I should say 'With what porpoise?'

"Don't you mean 'purpose?'" said Alice.

"I mean what I say," the Mock Turtle replied, in an offended tone. And the Gryphon added "Come, let's hear some of *your* adventures."

"I could tell you my adventures—beginning from this morning," said Alice a little timidly; "but it's no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then."

"Explain all that," said the Mock Turtle.

"No, no! The adventures first," said the Gryphon in an impatient tone: "explanations take such a dreadful time."

So Alice began telling them her adventures from the time when she first saw the White Rabbit. She was a little nervous about it, just at first, the two creatures got so close to her, one on each side, and opened their eyes and mouths so *very* wide; but she gained courage as she went on. Her listeners were perfectly quiet till she got to the part about her repeating "*You are old, Father William,*" to the Caterpillar, and the words all coming different, and then the Mock Turtle drew a long breath, and said "That's very curious!"

THE LOBSTER

"It's all about as curious as the Gryphon."

"It all came different," the Mock Turtle repeated thoughtfully. "I can't try and repeat something new. He looked at the Gryphon as if he had some kind of authority over him."

"Stand up and repeat 'I'm a Lobster-Quadrant,'"

"How the creatures order one repeat lessons!" thought Alice as well be at school at once. She got up, and began to repeat "I'm a Lobster-Quadrant," full of the Lobster-Quadrant. "That's what she was saying; and it's queer indeed:—

